

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1        1 .     A therapeutic compound comprising:  
2                a drug moiety comprising paclitaxel,  
3                at least one polypeptide drug carrier moiety having 70% by total weight of the  
4                polypeptide drug carrier, glutamic acid, and 30% by total weight by total weight of the  
5                polypeptide drug carrier, aspartic acid, wherein at least one glutamic acid is directly  
6                bonded to aspartic acid, and  
7                the drug moiety being covalently linked to the carrier moiety.

1        2 .     The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug carrier moiety comprises  
2                a molecular weight in the range of about 20,000 daltons to about 50,000 daltons.

1        3 .     The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug moiety comprises from  
2                about 10 percent to about 60 percent, by weight, of the therapeutic compound.

1        4 .     The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug moiety comprises from  
2                about 20 percent to about 50 percent, by weight, of the therapeutic compound.

1        5 .     The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug moiety comprises from  
2                about 20 percent to about 40 percent, of the therapeutic compound.

1        6 .     The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the amino acids can be in L form,  
2                or D form, or a racemic mixture of L and D forms.

1        7 .     The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein

1           the drug moiety comprises paclitaxel and is about 24 percent to about 30 percent,  
2       by weight, of the therapeutic compound, and  
3           the molecular weight of the therapeutic compound is from about 26,000 to about  
4       30,000 daltons.

1       8 .     A method for improving the solubility of a drug moiety comprising the steps of:  
2           covalently conjugating the drug moiety with at least one polypeptide drug carrier  
3       moiety, thereby creating a therapeutic compound, the therapeutic compound comprising:  
4           the drug moiety comprising paclitaxel, and  
5           at least one polypeptide drug carrier moiety having 70% by total weight of the  
6       polypeptide drug carrier, glutamic acid, and 30% by total weight by total weight of the  
7       polypeptide drug carrier, aspartic acid, wherein at least one glutamic acid is directly  
8       bonded to at least one aspartic acid, and  
9           the drug moiety being covalently linked to the carrier moiety.

1       9 .     The method of claim 8, wherein the drug carrier moiety comprises a molecular  
2       weight in the range of about 20,000 daltons to about 50,000 daltons.

1       10 .    The method of claim 8, wherein the water solubility of the therapeutic compound  
2       is greater than the water solubility of the drug moiety.

1       11 .    The method of claim 8, wherein  
2           the drug moiety comprises paclitaxel and is about 24 percent to about 30 percent,  
3       by weight, of the therapeutic compound, and  
4           the molecular weight of the therapeutic compound is from about 26,000 to about  
5       30,000 daltons.

1        12 .    A method for treating a condition comprising the steps of:  
2                administering a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic compound  
3 comprising:  
4                a drug moiety comprising paclitaxel, and  
5                at least one polypeptide drug carrier moiety having 70% by total weight of the  
6 polypeptide drug carrier, glutamic acid, and 30% by total weight by total weight of the  
7 polypeptide drug carrier, aspartic acid, and wherein at least one glutamic acid is directly  
8 bonded to at least one aspartic acid, and  
9                the drug moiety being covalently linked to the carrier moiety.

1        13 .    The method of claim 12, wherein the drug carrier moiety comprises a molecular  
2 weight in the range of about 20,000 daltons to about 50,000 daltons.

1        14 .    The method of claim 12, wherein the condition is a prostate tumor.

1        15 .    The method of claim 12, wherein  
2                the drug moiety comprises paclitaxel and is about 24 percent to about 30 percent,  
3 by weight, of the therapeutic compound, and  
4                the molecular weight of the therapeutic compound is from about 26,000 to about  
5 30,000 daltons.